

MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1951.

The New York Times

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SHEBA DISCOVERIES
SPUR WIDER HUNT

Explorer, Here to Raise Funds
and Recruits, Tells of Rich
Finds in Yemen Desert

QUEEN'S CAPITAL LOCATED

Hundreds of Acres of Ruins
3,000 Years Old Found 70
Feet Beneath Sands

By ROBERT C. DOTY
American explorers who reached
what they believe was the site
of the Queen of Sheba's capital in
southern Arabia early this year
were greeted by her latter-day
descendants with blue dye on their
faces and a disquieting tendency
to shoot strangers.

Wendell Phillips, 28-year-old
leader of the first expedition to
reach the ancient site at Marib, Yemen,
in nearly eighty years, told
yesterday of some of the group's
early difficulties. He returned
here by air late Saturday to raise
funds and recruit personnel to
pursue excavations at Marib seeking
to establish definitely that the
biblical queen lived and ruled there
nearly 3,000 years ago.

Conditions have changed mightily
in the thirty centuries since the
beautiful and wise queen came out
of the southern desert "with camels
that bare spices, and very
much gold and precious stones" to
tell King Solomon's treasury at
Jerusalem. The list of knoty
questions to test his wisdom.

Mr. Phillips described the present
Kingdom of Yemen—ancient
Saba—as one of the last places
in the world where the casual royal
command of "Off with his head!"
still could mean that someone's
head would come off.

Present Leader Is Impressive
It almost never does in practice,
he said. The present ruler of Sheba's land, Imam Ahmed, was described by the explorer as intelligent,
quick-witted and impressive.
He has taken his nation of wandering
tribesmen and agricultural Bedouins into the United Nations
and, last spring, granted the American
Foundation for the Study of Man a concession to explore, and
dig in the little-known interior of
Yemen.

Unfortunately, the royal decree
didn't reach the fierce tribesmen
around Marib as soon as the
expedition did. The advance party of
eight arrived in two automobiles,
and were surrounded by indigo-faced
warriors, who disarmed and
imprisoned them overnight in a
stone fortress. The tribesmen had
watched airplanes fly over but the
two desert wagons were the first
land motor vehicles they had seen.
The Imam's authorization arrived
next day and the party was freed,
Mr. Phillips said.

Spires Prolude Through Desert

The explorers found the ancient
queen's capital city to be several
hundred acres of ruins, in stratified
layers reaching down seventy
feet. In the present city and in the
barren plain around it, they found
spires and columns of alabaster
palaces and temples protruding
through the sand.

Mr. Phillips said he hoped to begin
full-scale excavations in the fall to
unearth more material and evidence
of Sheba's life and times for
analysis by Prof. W. F. Albright,
chairman of the oriental seminary
of Johns Hopkins University.

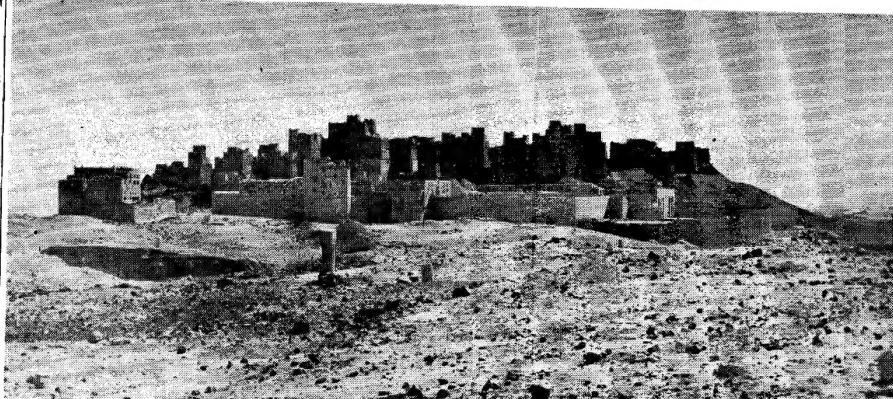
Meanwhile, the expedition's field
hospital, equipped by the United
States Navy, is seeking to build
Arab goodwill by administering
the first medical treatment the
area has known. The Imam, Mr.
Phillips said, had ordered construction
of a hospitalized building for
the expedition, an airfield and a
road from the city of Sana, nearer
the Red Sea coast.

Ninety cases of artifacts uncov-
ered at the ancient site of Timna,
forty miles southeast of Marib, in
the last two years, are now en
route to the Carnegie Museum in
Pittsburgh, negotiated with the
American Foundation in the expedi-
tion, Mr. Phillips said.

In recognition of his work in the
Timna area, Mr. Phillips was in-
stalled as Sheik Hussein Ali Al
Harithi of the Bedu warrior Bal
Harith tribe. When he left the
Wadi Beihai area, 700 tribesmen,
including some of his own Bal
Harithi, were shooting at each
other in a land dispute.

He wants to get back to see how
it came out.

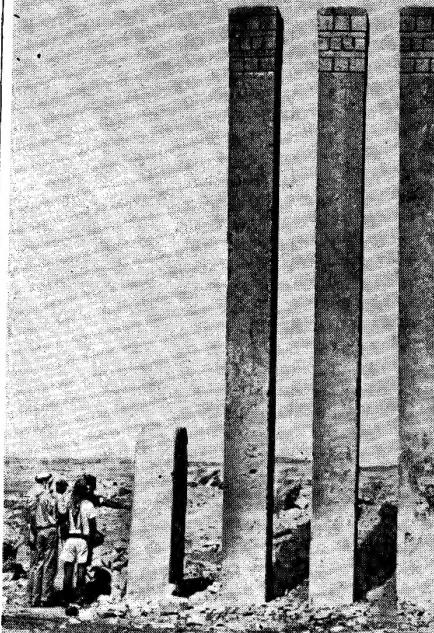
Antiquities Uncovered in Arabia by American Foundation Explorers



The present-day city of Marib built over portions of the Queen of Sheba's capital city, the ruins of which are seen in foreground. These stratified ruins are more than seventy feet deep.



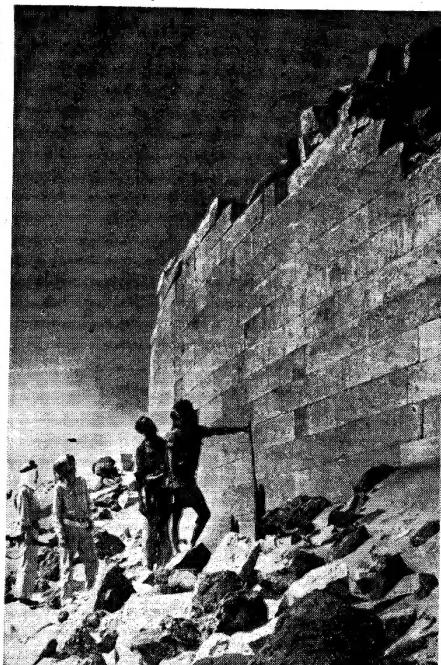
Alabaster statues were among art objects found in one of the main tombs of the City of Timna.



Thirty-foot pillars of the Temple of the Moon God, premier deity of the Ancient Sabaens. The ruins are three miles from the Marib capital city. The American Foundation Arabian Expedition will start excavations on this site in the immediate future.



Wendell Phillips, right, expedition leader, and Dr. Valentin de Mignard, surgeon, standing next to tall pillar with crescent moon and circular sun at the top. The moon represents the first god of ancient Sheba and the sun the second deity.



Huge circular Sabaen "Temple of Bilquis," or Temple of Sheba. Purpose of this temple is unknown but the local Bedouins refer to it as Sheba's Temple. A huge monumental inscription encircles the upper rim.

American Foundation